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JUL 30 2007

Dkt. 2271/75616

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application of: Seiichi KOGURE et al.

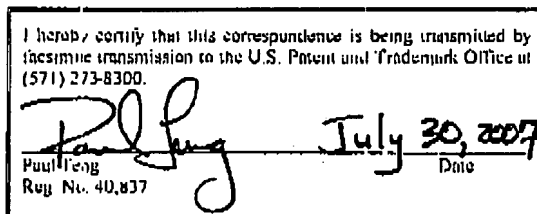
Serial No.: 10/561,329

Group Art Unit: 2861

Date Filed: December 19, 2005

Examiner: Joshua M. Dubnow

For: IMAGE FORMING APPARATUS



1185 Avenue of the Americas
New York, N.Y. 10036
(212) 278-0400

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**COMMUNICATION IN RESPONSE TO
JULY 5, 2007 OFFICE ACTION**

This Communication is submitted in response to the July 5, 2007 Office Action issued by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office which indicates that examination of the above-identified patent application will be restricted under 35 U.S.C. §121 and 35 U.S.C. §372 to one of the following allegedly distinct groups of claims:

- Group I - Claims 1-7, drawn to an image forming apparatus with means for controlling a conveyance speed in accordance with a charge period length;
- Group II - Claim 8, drawn to an image forming apparatus with means for controlling a conveyance speed in accordance with an existence of the charges; and
- Group III - Claims 9-15, drawn to an image forming apparatus where the charge period length is adjusted by means for controlling a charge period when the charge period length is equal to or longer than a predetermined length, and the conveyance speed is adjusted by means for controlling a conveyance

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speed when the charge period length is shorter than a predetermined length.

The Office Action further states that the application contains claims directed to more than one species, and that if group I or II is elected, applicant is required to elect one of the following species:


- A. The charging means applies the charges from a state where the conveyance belt is stopped until the predetermined conveyance speed is reached.
- B. The charging means applies the charges from a state where the conveyance belt is at the predetermined speed until the belt is stopped.
- C. The charging means applies the charges from a state where the conveyance belt is stopped until the predetermined conveyance speed is reached, and from a state where the conveyance belt is at the predetermined conveyance speed until the belt is stopped.

Applicant hereby elects to prosecute Group I and Species A. Claims readable on Species A are claims 1-3.

If a petition for an extension of time is required to make this response timely, this paper should be considered to be such a petition. The Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees that may be required in connection with this response and to credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 03-3125.

If a telephone interview could advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to call the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,


Paul Teng, Reg. No. 40,837
Attorney for Applicant
Cooper & Dunham LLP
Tel.: (212) 278-0400